

REMARKS

The purpose of this Preliminary Amendment is to eliminate multiple dependent claims in order to avoid the additional fee. Applicants reserve the right to reintroduce claims to canceled combined subject matter.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees associated with this response or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 13-3402.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'I. William Millen', followed by the handwritten number '30595'.

I. William Millen, Reg. No. 19,544
Attorney for Applicants

MILLEN, WHITE, ZELANO & BRANIGAN, P.C.
Arlington Courthouse Plaza 1
2200 Clarendon Boulevard, Suite 1400
Arlington, VA 22201
Direct Dial: 703-812-5325
Facsimile: 703-243-6410
Attorney Docket No.: PET-2171

Date: January 31, 2005

IWM:apl

K:\PET\2171\preliminary amendment.doc